

TOPIC: Online Information Database

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I. SUMMARY: Creation of an online database to include various types of housing data. The database will facilitate the use and distribution of key housing data such as needs assessment information and funding options for developers. The intended target is housing developers and local government officials.

II. BACKGROUND: At the February meeting of the Blue Ribbon Panel, following a review of funding sources for housing development, preservation, and rehabilitation, several panelists suggested the creation of an online database connecting developers with housing funds. Other requested that a database be used to better organize and improve availability of housing data and household demographics.

In May of 2005, the Division of Housing, in a partnership with CHFA, the city of Denver, and USDA-RD launched a rental unit database connecting landlords and potential renters with an emphasis on affordable units. The database can be found at www.coloradohousingsearch.com.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Using the Housing Search database as a model or as a foundation for expansion, Division of Housing staff should create an online database that will advance the following goals:

1. Greater availability and ease of use in funding sources for affordable housing. Target both for-profit and non-profit developers.
2. Regularly updated information from local and regional needs assessments. To be compatible with a statewide standard needs assessment format.
3. Greater availability of demographic and household income data. Packaged for use by local governments, housing providers, and economic development professionals.
4. Other categories as determined by the panel.